

THE EARLIEST MEMBERS OF  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

ROBERT S. HUTCHISON





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THE EARLIEST MEMBERS OF  
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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To Mrs. W. B. Sullivan  
from her friend  
Robert S. Hutchison

Robert S. Hutchison  
October 1951



Second Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, which by merger with Westminster now constitutes Covenant Presbyterian, was organized in the fall of 1873; at least two years earlier its formation had been seriously undertaken. The petition finally presented to Mecklenburg Presbytery contained sixteen names; twenty-three others had been subscribed but had been removed. Apparently the organization was no easy task, and those who undertook it soon found that their difficulties were only beginning.

As in case of most new churches, this one was beset with financial troubles. In 1875 the Session minutes state:

"The matter of taking up collections for systematic benevolence was presented and urged by the Pastor, but in consideration of the heavy burden of debt resting on the congregation and the difficulty of raising money to meet it, the further consideration of the matter was postponed until after the first of January."

At this time the church building was being completed at a cost of some \$10,000; \$2,000 had been borrowed, the loan being secured by a mortgage on the church and also endorsed by Gen. Barringer, Col. Brem and R. I. McDowell. The minutes show that in 1879 the deacons were "instructed" to raise \$300 to pay the floating debt of the church and the next year they were "instructed" to pay off the debt. In 1881 the mortgage was marked satisfied.

The problem of church officers was even more serious than that of finances. Up to 1882, seven elders and six deacons had been elected and installed; of these, one elder, after heated controversy, at his





request had been dismissed to First Church, and another, at his request had been relieved of the duties of his office; one deacon had been accused before the Session of "unchristian conduct", had threatened to bring suit against the board of deacons, and a few years later was placed on the list of "noncommunicating members". One deacon, at his request, had been dismissed to First Church, and another had been lost by removal of residence to another community. Furthermore, three members had been elected to the diaconate and had declined to serve.

To the beginning of 1882, 170 members had been enrolled, but as the result of deaths and dismissals to other churches, at that time there were 138. Col. Rankin says that among those lost to the congregation were some of its most active and influential members.

No doubt these are at least some of the difficulties referred to by the "North Carolina Presbyterian" in its obituary notice upon the death of R. I. McDowell which occurred December, 1885. Mr. McDowell had moved from Iredell County to Charlotte in the year 1873. The writer says:

"When he arrived here a movement was about being set on foot to organize a Second Presbyterian Church, but there were extremely few persons as yet ready to embark fully in the new undertaking. In October 1873, when the certificate dismissing himself and his wife was handed in, only twenty-six persons had then joined the new church. The proposed experiment must not only have appeared to most persons as an uncertain one, but also as one likely to test, to the utmost, the liberality and zeal of all who might embark in it."





The men and women who organized Second Church, who built and paid for its sanctuary, and who bore and helped to overcome the hardships and discouragements of those earliest years are worthy of remembrance by the great company which now constitutes Covenant Presbyterian.

I have taken from the church records the names of all members during the earliest years, that is, up to 1882; I have added information obtained from other records, from hearsay and from other sources; I remember many of these men and women; some of them were my kinfolks.

#### THE CHARTER MEMBERS

The signers of the petition to Presbytery, all of whom were members of First Church, were J. S. Phillips, his wife Lucy A., their daughter Miss Sallie M., W. E. Stitt, Chas. W. Alexander and wife M. A., Misses Sallie W. and Lou V. Young, daughters of Mrs. Sarah Virginia Young, Mrs. M. M. (Mrs. W. F.) Phifer and daughter Miss Codie W., and her brother-in-law L. S. Williams, Mrs. Armistead (Ella) Burwell and her sister Mrs. J. H. (Sallie) McAden, Asa George, S. F. Houston and wife S. P. These were received as members by the Commission, except Mrs. M. A. Alexander who joined the following May. Before placing the Church in the hands of its officers on November 30, the Commission also had received Mrs. Sarah Virginia Young from Poplar Tent, Julius P. Alexander from Sugar Creek, John Mc Alexander and wife M. E. and John W. Sample from Hopewell, Robert I. McDowell



and wife Rebecca R. from Unity, Jas. B. Rankin from Marion, N. C., Mrs. Martha J. Van Ness from Purity Church at Chester, S. C., Jas. F. Davidson, George M. Phifer, son of Mrs. M. M., Geo. A. Houston and wife Elizabeth N., their daughters Mrs. Mary E. O. Giles and Misses Susan E. and Griswell J. Houston from First Church; their son S. F. and his wife had signed the petition. Thirty-one members had been received by the Commission, and on December 1st the Session received Richard B. Alexander, a brother of Chas. W., from Mallard Creek and his wife Margaret E. from Sugar Creek, and Miss Martha M. Johnston from Unity. These thirty-four rightfully should be considered the charter members of the new Church.

Mrs. Sarah Virginia Young was the first member, received October 14, 1873; the others follow in alphabetical order:

Alexander, Julius P., came from Sugaw Creek October 21, 1873, and his wife Margaret 1877; he was one of the three first elders, serving from November 30, 1873 until his death 1912; their daughter, Margaret Rixanna, who was received 1876, married Daniel A. Johnston; she was dismissed to First Church 1881; Mr. Alexander was a farmer and his home place was at what now is the corner of the Plaza and Belvedere, which at that day was far out in the country; Mrs. Jake Barnhardt and Mrs. Paul Gurley are great granddaughters of the Alexanders, and with their families are long time members of Second, now Covenant Church; Mr. Barnhardt is an elder and Mr. Gurley is a deacon.





Alexander, John Mc. and wife N. E. came from Hopewell October 21, 1873; he was a merchant, at one time in business with J. W. Sample. The Alexanders lived on West Trade Street between Church and Poplar. Mrs. Alexander was a sister of Dr. Harvey C. Henderson, who later joined Second Church; he was an uncle of Miss Hattie Alexander who has been a member for more than fifty years.

Alexander, Charles W. and wife Margaret A. signed the petition and came from First Church, he October 21, 1873 and she the next year; he was elected elder 1882 and served until dismissed to Birmingham 1890; he and R. B. Alexander were brothers; he was Town Marshall which was about the same as Chief of Police; the Alexanders lived on Sixth Street between Brevard and the railroad.

Alexander, Richard B. came from Mallard Creek and his wife Jane P. from Sugaw Creek December 1, 1873; he was elected deacon 1876, elder 1887, serving until dismissed to Graham Street; later, in 1896, he returned to Second Church; he donated the property at McDowell and Third Streets which was used by Alexander Rescue Home and the Home was named for him. Mr. Alexander was a merchant, had a grocery store on Tryon Street between 6th and 7th in partnership with J. L. Davis, later with his son-in-law L. L. Sarratt; also he had a grain and feed business on South College Street. The Alexanders lived on Tryon Street between 7th and 8th; their daughter Banna V. married L. L. Sarratt; she joined Second Church 1882 and was a member until her





death 1950; Mr. Sarratt was deacon and then elder from 1896 until his death 1937. The Sarratt children all became members; Nell, Mrs. D. C. Caldwell, has been a member since 1898, and Miss Elizabeth almost as long.

Atwell, Miss Julia E. enrolled from Prospect Church in 1875.

Alexander, Jas. F. received upon examination and his wife, M. M. from Back Creek 1876; they lived on North Graham Street; he was in the grocery business.

Burwell, Mrs. Armistead (Ella) signed the petition and came from First Church October 21, 1873; the home place of the Burwells still stands on Tryon Street next to the First A.R.P. Church; Judge Burwell never joined Second Church but was regular in his attendance on its services.

Brem, Col. Thos. H. had been an artillery captain, C. S. A.; he was president of the M. & F. Bank and was in the hardware firm of Brem, Brown and Co. on East Trade Street; his home was in the middle of the block now occupied by the City Hall; he was a widower in 1873 when he married Mrs. Adelaide W. Steele; on April 5th, 1874 he joined Second Church upon profession of faith, or as the record states "on examination", and was the first member so received; his wife enrolled from First Church May 1874; Col. Brem, with R. I. McDowell and Gen. Rufus Barringer, were the building committee for the First Church



edifice, After his death, 1876, his widow made her home with her daughter, Mrs. D. P. Hutchison. Mr. Rankin refers to Col. Brem and Gen. Barringer as "highly valuable and influential members". Mrs. Brem and Mrs. M. M. Phifer were sisters.

Barringer, Gen. Rufus, was enrolled from First Church April 19, 1874, and his wife Margaret L., and his daughter Anna from the Church at "Concord Town"; Anna died the same year. Gen. Barringer was elected elder 1875. In November 1880 the Session records: "A letter was received from Gen. R. Barringer asking to be relieved of the eldership upon the ground that his usefulness had been greatly impaired if not wholly destroyed by the scenes of political strife in which he had engaged. The Session, recognizing these facts, granted his request and permitted him to cease to act." In 1887 he was again elected elder and served until his death 1895. By his will he left \$500.00 to Second Church. Gen. Barringer was a brigadier general of cavalry in the C.S.A.; he was a brother-in-law of Gen. Stonewall Jackson and of Gen. D. H. Hill; after the war he joined the Republican party and this was deeply resented by many; no doubt this explains his retirement from the eldership. For many years he was a trustee of Davidson College; he was a lawyer, a farmer and banker. Chas. J. Chunn, a brother-in-law, and Misses Fannie, Helen and Lillie Long, sisters-in-law, were members of his family; Chas. Chunn joined Second Church 1876 from Morganton and was dismissed to Asheville 1878,





a son, Rufus, later became a member; another son, Osmond L., has been a member of First Church for many years. In the Seventies Gen. Barringer built his home on Tryon Street at Eighth, the lot now being occupied by an automobile service station. Another son of Gen. Barringer was Paul.

Barringer, Paul, joined Second Church 1884, his wife, Nannie H., having come from Cub Creek, Va., the year before; they were dismissed to Davidson 1886. Dr. Barringer became very distinguished; for many years he was Chairman of the Faculty of the University of Virginia, that being practically equivalent to President; and later for some years he was President of V. P. I.

Brenizer, Capt. A. G., and wife, Fannie G., were enrolled from Columbia, S. C. 1875; the same year he was elected deacon and later Asst. Superintendent of the "Sabbath School"; the Brenizers were dismissed to First Church 1881, where in later years he was an elder; Capt. Brenizer was Cashier of the Commercial National Bank; they lived on Tryon Street at Tenth; their son, Gilmer, joined Second Church 1882 and later was elected deacon but did not serve.

Bason, Capt. Geo. F., was enrolled from Graham, his wife, Mrs. E. Bason and her mother, Mrs. Cornelia H. Badham, from Raleigh 1876; Mrs. Badham's children, Carrie and Henry L., joined 1882 and the Bason children, Wm. H. and Johnsie, in later years. Capt. Bason was a lawyer; for years their home was on Myers Street at Third. The Basons





were dismissed to Dallas, N. C. 1884, but later returned to Second Church.

Boyd, Miss Sue, came from York, S. C. 1876; she was dismissed to Kings Mountain 1883 but returned to Second Church; she was house-keeper at the Central Hotel; her brother, Benjamin P., joined Second Church 1885.

Butler, H. T., came from Newberry and his wife, Sarah L., from Greenville, S. C., 1877; they were "transferred" to Spartanburg 1883; Mr. Butler dealt in clocks, watches, jewelry etc.; his store was on Tryon between Trade and Fifth Streets; their home was on South Tryon Street at Vance.

Brown, Wm. S., and wife, Ann E., came from Steele Creek 1878; they lived at Eleventh and C Streets.

Beatty, Mrs. Hattie (Hughes), was enrolled from Pittsburg, Pa. 1880.

Beall, S. O., came from Atlanta 1880 and was dismissed to Atlanta 1887.

Caldwell, A. Shorter, came from Rome, Ga. and his wife, Lizzie E., from Rock Hill 1874; he was elected elder 1875, and was Superintendent of the "Sabbath School"; they were dismissed to First Church 1879; he later was ordained to the Presbyterian ministry, he was a brother of Dr. J. L. Caldwell who for some years was President of Queens College.



Coley, Mrs. Mary Wiggins, was received 1879 and was dismissed to Chapel Hill 1882.

Chambers, Wm. W., was received 1879; later his name was placed on the "retired list".

Clark, A. W., received and his wife Sarah enrolled from the Reformed Church at Grace 1881; their names later were placed on the "retired list".

Davidson, Jas. F., enrolled from First Church November 18, 1873; was elected deacon November 30th and served until 1885 when he was transferred to the "noncommunicating members"; he lived on Ninth Street at Caldwell, and apparently was a building contractor as the record shows payments to him amounting to \$1,200.00 in connection with the construction of the church. There is a record at the Court House indicating that he was, in 1877, preparing to bring suit against "the Deacons of the Second Presbyterian Church." I do not find whether the suit was brought or not; in the same year the Session records that he was charged with "unchristian conduct"; the matter seems to have been satisfactorily disposed of.

Davis, J. L., and wife, J. M., came from Poplar Tent 1876; their daughters Mollie and Sarah Esther, Mrs. Essie Blankenship, joined 1886, their sons John McK. 1887 and C. Pinkney 1898, Miss Mollie died 1947; Mrs. Blankenship and C. Pinkney still are members; Mr. Davis was in the grocery business in partnership with R. B. Alexander, later





by himself; the store was on Tryon Street across from the present Carnegie Library; their home was on Brevard Street at Sixth.

Davant, J. S., came from First Church, Columbia, S. C., 1877, and was dismissed to Augusta, Ga. 1878.

Evans, Mrs. A. E., enrolled from Greensboro 1875, died the next year.

Flemming, Maj. Wm. W., and wife Ella, came from Marion, N. C. 1875 and were dismissed to First Church 1880; he was an attorney.

Friday, Wm. I. and wife, Eliza, enrolled 1876, he from Dallas, N. C. and she from Gastanea Grove; their home was on Church Street at Seventh; he was a member of the wholesale firm of A. R. Nisbet & Co.; Miss Ada V., their daughter, has been a member since 1895.

Fanning, Mrs. Harriett Eugenia, received 1876, dismissed to Durham 1880.

Finger, W. J. M. and wife, Mary, came from the Reformed Church in Lincoln County 1880; he was deacon then elder from 1880 until his death 1928; they lived on Ninth Street at Brevard and later on Sixth between Brevard and the railroad; Mr. Finger had a woodworking shop on Fifth Street, the firm was Asbury & Finger, and they also were contractors and builders; their children, Alda R., Mrs. W. B. Pickens, Ethel R., Mrs. R. Sam Reid, Gordon M. and Mary E., Mrs. Robert C. Williams, joined Second Church; Mrs. Reid has been a member since 1893,



Mrs. Williams since 1899; G. T. Finger and Irwin W. Pickens, grandsons, are long time members, also the Reid children, Robert R., William G., Kathryn, and Dorothy.

George, Capt. Asa, signed the petition and came from First Church Oct. 21, 1873; his home was on North Tryon Street above Eleventh, he was a merchant, in partnership with his son-in-law W. N. Prather; they sold pianos, organs, etc.; Col. Rankin says Capt. George played the organ while services of the new church were being held in the Court House; he died 1887.

Gray, Wm. S., Sr., and wife, Jane, and daughter Miss T. E. Gray came from Sugar Creek 1878; another daughter, Alice, joined 1881; she died the next year.

Grier, Mrs. Addie (Ramseur) came from Lincolnton 1880.

Green, Miss Florence, was received 1881 and the same year was dismissed to Cheraw, S. C.

Houston, Geo. A., his wife, Elizabeth N., their children, Mrs. Mary E. O. Giles, Misses Susan E. and Griswell J., S. Frank and his wife, Mrs. S. P. Houston, came from First Church October 21, 1873; S. Frank and wife had signed the petition. The Houstons furnished more of the original members of Second Church than any other family. They lived on Eighth Street at Pine and the home is still occupied by members of the family. George Houston died 1876. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Houston joined Second Church; Lelia, Mrs. N. L.





Savage, 1877, Carrie, Mrs. J. H. Bass, and Bessie, Mrs. J. W. Roark, 1882, Sarah 1887, Ben F., Sam and Grace, Mrs. Ed Mullen in later years; Mrs. Bass, except when living in Monroe, and Mrs. Roark have been members since 1882 and Miss Sarah since 1887. Mrs. Roark's son Arnold has been a member many years. Mrs. Giles children joined, Annie 1877, George S. and Hirmina 1882. Four generations of Houstons have been members of Second Church, now Covenant.

Heron, Mrs. Esther, came from Siloam 1875.

Harding, Mrs. Mary D., enrolled from Concord 1875 and was dismissed to Augusta, Ky., 1883; she was the wife of Dr. E. H. Harding, the first Pastor; they lived on Tryon Street at Seventh; at that time the church did not own its manse, their son, Richmond P., joined Second Church 1882, later was dismissed to Davidson, where he still resides; for many years he was Professor of Greek there; his daughter, Mrs. Curtis B. Johnson, formerly Mrs. A. A. McGeachy, and his son, Robert H., and family have been members for many years.

Hutchison, David Parks, and wife, Sallie Steele, were married in 1876, theirs being the first wedding in the new church edifice; she had come from First Church the same year; her mother, Mrs. Thomas H. Brem, came from First Church two years earlier, in later years Parks Hutchison and their children, Selene, who married Charles F. Dalton, Annie Parks, who married William E. Parker, and Susan, became members. For many years Mr. Parker and Mr. Dalton have been members. Parks H. Dalton, son of Charles F. Dalton. and his first wife, Adele Hutchison Dalton,



and his son, Parks H. Dalton, Jr., are members. This has been a "Second Church family" for five generations and the residence on Tryon Street at Ninth, now occupied by Chas. F. Dalton, has been their home place ever since before the Civil War.

Hutchison, Dr. E. Nye, while not a member of Second Church was closely connected with it and with its founding; he was an elder of First Church and a trustee of Davidson College and Union Seminary; he was Moderator of Mecklenburg Presbytery 1894, the first elder to hold that office; he was one of the commission appointed by Presbytery to organize the new church and the only member living at the Silver Jubilee in 1898; Parks Hutchison, son of the first Mrs. Hutchison, and five of the children of Dr. Hutchison and his second wife, Bessie C., joined Second Church, Mrs. Hutchison remained a member of First Church but attended the new church regularly; of the children, Susan joined 1884 and died five years later; Charlee joined 1884, taught in the city schools almost fifty years until her death in 1936; Bessie J. has been a member since 1893, and also Anna Locke, Mrs. T. C. Evans ever since that year except during her residence away from Charlotte; Robert S. joined in 1897; for some years his membership was in Albemarle; since 1925 he has been a deacon, then elder. Mrs. Hutchison's sisters, Mrs. Ella Burwell and Mrs. Sallie McAden, were charter members of the church, and her sister, Lottie, Mrs. Walter Maffitt, joined in 1889; some of the members of their families later became members. The Hutchison home was at the end of North Pine Street; since the early Nineties the family home has been on West Tenth Street.



Hutchison, Andrew C., came from Goshen in 1880; he was particularly active in the Sunday School work of the church; he moved his membership to Tryon Street M. E. in 1882 but returned to Second Church the next year; his wife, Annie Fisher, and their children later became members.

Horton, Mrs. C. C. (Mary M.), was received 1880; her daughter Bessie, Mrs. Manly Edwards, has been a member since 1890; the Hortons lived on Fifth Street between College and the railroad and later moved to 8th Street between Poplar and Pine.

Hall, Mrs. Elvira, came from Goshen Church in 1880; she died the next year.

Hayes, Mrs. N. P., came from Sharon in 1881, and her husband, C. C., was received the next year; he was a deacon from 1882 until his death in 1918; their four children became members; Miss Ethel has been a member since 1893, Robert G., for several years prior to his death, was a deacon, his 5 children all being members, the daughter, Eleanor, is the wife of Jas. H. Barnhardt, who is a deacon, and one of the sons, Sadler, is now a deacon in the Brick Presbyterian Church of New York City; Thomas C. has been a deacon since 1922 and his family are all members; Sadie, Mrs. Charles J. Husted, was a member until moving from Charlotte. Mr. Hayes was a merchant and the family home was on Caldwell between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

Johnston, Mrs. Rufus, came from the First Church of Columbia, S. C. on May 17, 1874; her son Latta C. joined in 1882; his wife and children, Rufus M. and Mary, Mrs. Walter Clark, joined later; Rufus, his wife and children are members; he has been deacon, then elder





since 1927; their homeplace is at Tryon and Tenth Streets; four generations of this family have occupied this home and have been members of Second Church, now Covenant. Miss Jennie Johnston, a cousin of Latta C. came from Castanea Grove in 1886; her home was on Tryon Street at 11th, next door to the old Phifer place; by her will she left \$4,000 to Second Church for home missions; Col. Rankin says that a considerable portion of this legacy was used in building the first church edifice of Westminster.

Johnston, Capt. James F., and mother, Nancy, and sister, Sue, enrolled from Sugar Creek on November 8, 1874; he was made deacon the next year and elder in 1887, and the following year they were dismissed to Birmingham, Alabama. Capt. Johnston had been a Captain of Cavalry in the C. S. A.; he had a farm machinery business on South College Street. The Johnstons lived on Ninth Street between Brevard and the railroad; he and General R. D. Johnston were brothers. Captain Johnston's wife, Mrs. Mary S. Johnston, was enrolled from Laurens, S. C. in 1881.

Johnston, General R. D., joined Second Church in 1875 and his wife, Mrs. J. Johnston, was enrolled from First Church; he was elected elder in 1878 and served until they were dismissed to Birmingham in 1887; he was Sunday School Superintendent for some years; General Johnston was an attorney, a member of the firm of Jones and Johnston; they lived on Ninth Street between Brevard and the railroad.

Jones, Miss Hanna G., was received 1881 and was dismissed to Walhalla, S. C. the same year.



Kuester, Wm. F., and wife Rixcy, were received 1876, they lived at College and Seventh Streets; he was a lock and gunsmith; Mr. Kuester died 1882; later, Mrs. Kuester joined the Baptist Church; they were the grandparents of C. O. Kuester, now a member of the board of deacons.

Lawing, Robert E., and wife, Eliza, were received 1876; their children, Emma, Eunice B. and Della, later became members. Mr. Lawing was a contractor and cabinet maker; the Lawing home was on Caldwell Street at Eleventh.

Lawrence, Mrs. S. C., came from Sharpesburg, Pa. 1880; died the same year.

Long, Miss Fannie W., came from the church at Concord April 19, 1874, and Miss Helen C. and Miss Lillie W., the next year, they were sisters of Mrs. Gen. Barringer; for many years Miss Lilly was Principal of the Presbyterian Female Institute, the forerunner of Queens College; by her will she left a legacy to Second Church.

McAden, Mrs. J. H. (Sallie J.), signed the petition and came from First Church October 21, 1873; she and Mrs. Ella Burwell were sisters; the McAden home place stands on Tryon Street at Phifer Avenue; Mrs. McAden's daughter, Fannie, Mrs. A. T. Summey, joined Second Church, later moving her membership to First; another daughter, Sallie, Mrs. J. S. Cothran, has been a member since 1899; Mrs. McAden's husband, Dr. J. H. McAden, a physician and druggist and later a banker, never joined Second Church, but he was a member of the Committee which built the present church structure.





McDowell, Robert I., and wife, Rebecca E., came from Unity in Lincoln County November 14, 1873; he was one of the first three elders serving from November 30, 1873, until his death 1885, Mr. McDowell was a farmer, also vice president of the Traders National Bank; the McDowell home was on Trade Street where the Court House now stands.

At the time of his death, the North Carolina Presbyterian wrote of Mr. McDowell that he had been an elder in Steele Creek, where he was born, was a trustee of Davidson College for 40 years and its Treasurer for 25. He moved his residence to Charlotte in 1873; Second Church was then being organized. To its successful progress "he gave freely of his time, his counsels and his means"; he saw it grow to a strong and working church of over 300 members. "It is no exaggeration to say that the present prosperity of the Second Church is due under God to no one person more than Mr. McDowell, and that it is in a real sense his best memorial."

McGinn, Geo. H., was enrolled 1875 from the Caldwell Church, later his wife and children became members, for many years the McGinns lived on Eighth Street between Poplar and Pine, Mr. McGinn had been a merchant and at one time was in partnership with C. C. Hayes, their store being at the corner of Trade and Church Streets.

McDowell, Miss Sallie Amelia, joined 1875, was dismissed to Monticello, Fla. 1879.

McEachern, Mrs. Malinda, came from Rocky River 1875, died 1884.



Millett, Thos. M., received 1875, name stricken from rolls 1884; he was a cotton buyer.

Marvin, W. P., was received, and his wife, Sallie Amelia McDowell, enrolled from Monticello, Fla. 1881; they were dismissed to Steele Creek 1885.

McLean, Quincy A., his wife, Sarah A., and his sister, Mary C. McLean, came from Centre 1878; he was elected deacon 1879 but declined the office; they were "transferred" to Hickory 1883; their names were dropped from the rolls 1885.

McKee, Wm. N., came from Providence 1880; he was a town policeman.

McClure, Mrs. Flora P. and Miss Jane P., came from Sugar Creek 1881.

Neely, J. C. and wife, Jane, and daughter Nannie, came from Steele Creek 1874 and returned there the next year.

Neisler, Mrs. Margaret C., came from Mallard Creek 1875; she was a sister of R. B. and C. W. Alexander, members of her family were received in later years.

Neal, Wm. L., came from Steele Creek and his wife, Annie F., from Little Mt., S. C. 1879, he was dismissed 1885 to be ordained to the Presbyterian ministry, and she to the Farmville, Va. Presbyterian Church.



Oates, Mrs. Robert M. (Ella), enrolled from First Church 1876; her husband, Col. Oates, joined 1882; their daughter Lalla, 1884, married Geo. W. Bethel, and they later moved to Norfolk; Berta (Roberta), who married W. H. Twitty, has been a member since 1887; Mr. Twitty was a deacon from 1913 until his death 1943; Lucy, Mrs. C. J. Morarity, and Bonnie, Mrs. Dr. W. A. Graham, later became members; Mrs. Oates, for a time was Church organist and Bonnie was in the choir; Col. Oates was elected deacon 1887, but declined the office; he was a member of the building committee for the present church building; he was connected with the Charlotte Cotton Mills and an officer of the First National Bank, later its president; the Oates home, built about 1878, was on Tryon Street at Eighth where the First Methodist Church now stands.

Oates, John E., enrolled from First Church, and his wife, Willie A., from the Petersburg, Va. Methodist Church 1878; he was elected deacon the same year and elder 1887, serving till his death 1897; he was a member of the building committee for the present church building and Col. Rankin says he gave practically a year of his time to this work. He was in the cotton commission firm of Oates Bros. and also connected with the Charlotte Cotton Mills, often known as the Oates Mill. The Oates home was on Tryon Street two doors south of the present Federal Reserve Bank. Their daughter, Daisy, became a member 1893; she married Ernest Keerans who also was a member. John E., Jas. M. and David W. Oates were brothers and were nephews of Col. Robert M. Oates.





Oates, Jas. M., was received 1883 and his wife, Nora A., came the same year from the Methodist Church of Wilmington; he was elected deacon 1887 serving until his death 1925; their daughter, Louise, joined 1899, and the other children in later years; the Oates home was on South Tryon Street where the Buick automobile building now stands; he was a member of the Oates Bros. firm.

Oates, Mrs. David W. (Annie M.), came from the M. E. Church of Petersburg, Va. 1876 and her sister, Miss Mollie Blanks 1880; her husband, David W., was received 1879, was elected deacon the next year and elder 1882, serving until his death 1911; he was particularly active in connection with the musical life of the Church; their daughter, Annie Pegram, Mrs. Harvey S. Bryan, for many years was Church organist; she and her brother, Robert M., Jr., joined 1884; their sister, May C., joined 1893 and for several years was a member of the choir; she married H. N. Pharr. Mr. Oates was an officer of the Charlotte Cotton Mills and of the First National Bank; the Oates home was on West Trade Street where the Bus Station now stands; Miss Blanks made her home with the Oates.

Phifer, Mrs. W. F. (Mrs. M. M.) and her daughter, Miss Codie W., signed the petition and came from First Church October 21, 1873, and her son, George M., November 23rd; her daughter, Josephine, who married Wm. G. Durant, and her daughter-in-law, Isabella McGeehee Phifer (Mrs. Robert), joined 1875, her daughter Minnie, who married M. C. Quinn, 1879, her son William W., 1886, and her son Edw. W. later; Mrs. Robert



Phifer was dismissed to Danville, Va. 1884, and Josephine to Fort Mill, S. C., but soon returned to Second Church. Mrs. Phifer died 1879. For a time Miss Codie was church organist; George was an elder 1891 until his death 1930; William was a member of the building committee for the present church structure. Mrs. Durant's daughter, Willie, Mrs. Jas. A. Houston, has been a member since 1897, and her children, George P., James A. and Josephine, Mrs. H. V. Dick, are long time members.

The Phifer home place was on Tryon Street where the Sears Roebuck store now stands, and was the home in which Jefferson Davis was entertained in the Spring of 1865.

Phillips, J. S., his wife, Lucy A., and their daughter, Miss Sallie M., signed the petition and came from First Church October 21, 1873, and his mother, Mrs. Martha Phillips, came the next year; she died 1881; their daughter, Lucy, was received 1881 and died 1887. For several years before her death on February 17, 1943, Miss Sallie was the only living charter or original member; she was most active in the Sunday School; the Phillips Fidelis Class is named for her. The Phillips home stood on Sixth Street between College and the railroad. Mr. Phillips was a tailor and had a men's furnishing store on Tryon Street beneath the Central Hotel; later his place of business was upstairs above the First National Bank.

Perry, S. J., and wife, Chase, were received 1878; he operated a cigar and candy store near the square on Tryon Street; they lived on East Seventh Street near the railroad.



Pegram, Mrs. M. P. (Victoria), came from First Church 1878; died 1882, her husband was cashier of the First National Bank, they lived on College Street between Phifer Avenue and Eleventh.

Pickard, Wm. E., received 1881.

Prince, Miss Laura E., joined 1881, dismissed the same year to Cheraw, S. C.

Query, Miss Clara E., came from Philadelphia, Pa., St. John's Lutheran Church, 1880; she was a teacher in the city schools.

Rankin, James B., had been an elder in the Church at Marion, N. C.; he came to Second Church Nov. 14, 1873, was elected one of the first three elders November 30, and served until his death 1904, being Clerk of the Session during all of that time; he was a widower and in 1874 married Miss Martha M. Johnston, an aunt of Latta C. Johnston, who had joined Second Church December 1, 1873, coming from the Unity Church; Mr. Rankin's daughter, Annie H., was received November 21, 1875, and there is now no one living who became a member before that time; another daughter, Maggie G., joined 1882; these two ladies removed to Montreat some years ago and their membership is now in the Montreat Church; another daughter, Mary B., joined 1882 and died the same year. At the Silver Jubilee, 1898, Mr. Rankin read his brief but beautiful sketch of the Church's first 25 years. The Rankin home was on Tryon Street at Eighth, where the Dupont paint store now stands. Mr. Rankin was a cotton merchant and later operated a shoe store, the firm being A. E. Rankin & Bro., 6 W. Trade Street.





Remley, Mrs. John W. (N. E.) came from Americus, Ga. 1875.

Ramseur, Harvey M., came from Lincolnton, and his wife, Mary, from Graham 1876; he worked for the C. C. & A., later the R. & D. Railroad (now the Southern); they lived on Morehead Street near Tryon.

Ross, John D., and wife, Sarah Jane, came from Sugar Creek 1876; they lived on West Trade Street below the Southern Depot; their six sons later joined Second Church; the family is now represented in the Church by Dr. Otho B. Ross who has been an elder since 1918; another son, Charles, is a deacon in the Myers Park Church, and Frank also is a member of Myers Park; Ernest, at the time of his death, was an elder in the Greensboro First Church, John D. was an elder in the church at Haddonfield, N. J., and Floyd in the Presbyterian Church of Lawton, Okla.

Ross, John B., came from Providence, and his wife, Minnie B., from Columbia, S. C. 1880; he was elected deacon 1882 and elder 1887 and served until his death 1933, having been a church officer over fifty years; the children, Jos. R., Jno. K., Thos. H. and Fay, who married E. C. Dwelle, all joined Second Church; the family is now represented in the church by the son-in-law, E. C. Dwelle; Mr. Ross was in the wholesale grocery business; the old home place, until recently, was standing at College and Eighth Streets.

Stitt, Wm. E., signed the petition and enrolled from First Church Oct. 21, 1873; two years later he was elected deacon but declined to serve, his parents, Capt. Wm. and Eliza Stitt came from Providence 1876 and his sister Mary E., who later married R. C. Ross, brother of John D. Ross,



was received 1882, the Rosses lived on Ninth Street between Brevard and the railroad. The home of Mr. and Mrs. 'm. Stitt was on Brevard Street near Ninth; he was "Cotton Inspector". Mr. and Mrs. Ross' son, Edward S., was long a member.

Sample, Jno. W., came from Hopewell October 21, 1873, and his wife, Mrs. M. Ida, two years later; he had been a deacon there and was elected deacon in the new church November 30, 1873, serving until they moved to Lexington 1881; their daughter Lizzie, Mrs. T. T. Allison, has been a member since 1894; Mr. Allison, a brother of Henry J. and Julius, was a deacon from 1918 until his death 1948; a son, J. W. Sample, came from Hopewell 1891. Mr. Sample with J. Mc. Alexander were merchants, dealing in boots, shoes, hats, trunks, etc.; their store was on Trade Street between Tryon and Church, the Sample home was on West Trade Street between the depot and Cedar Street.

Simpson, Dr. Isaiah and wife, Sarah Anna, came from Chester A.R.P. 1875 and were dismissed to Winnsboro 1878.

Strickland, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane, was enrolled from Rocky River 1875.

Smith, Mrs. G.E.M., came from Alamance County Methodist Church 1877.

Steele, Green, received 1877, and his wife, Abbie, came from York, S. C. 1880.



Smith, Mrs. B. N. (Nancy) received 1877, died 1885.

Stuart, Mrs. Julia, came from Sharon 1878, dismissed to Atlanta 1884.

Smith Wm. Mc. and wife, Carrie E., received 1880, later joined the Baptist Church.

Stephens, J. A., came from Macon, Ga. 1880. Name placed on "noncommunicating members" list 1885.

Van Ness, Martha J. (Mrs. J. H.) came from Purity Church, Chester, S. C., Nov. 14, 1873; her children, John R. and Laura M., later became members, the Van Ness home was on Fifth Street between Poplar and Pine.

Williams, Lewis S., signed the petition and enrolled from First Church Oct. 21, 1873, he was a brother-in-law of Mrs. M. M. Phifer and Mrs. Thos. H. Brem; his daughter, Miss Addie, became a member 1887; she was for many years church organist and in charge of the music; she was reporter for the Charlotte Observer and married its editor, Jos. P. Caldwell; before her marriage she made her home with her cousin, Mrs. Parks Hutchison. Mr. Williams had been a captain in the C.S.A.; he was a cotton buyer.

Walsh, Miss Fannie A., received May 17, 1874; she was a teacher in the Charlotte Graded School, was dismissed to Monroe 1877.





Weddington, Ada Miranda (Mrs. J. H.), received 1875; in later years he, their daughter Bessie, Mrs. Luke Sewell, and their two sons became members. The Weddingtons lived on Trade Street near the Southern depot; Mr. Weddington was a hardware merchant and at one time Mayor of the city.

Williams, Mrs. E. A. R., came from Hopewell 1875, returned there 1879.

Wilson, George E., and wife, Bessie M., joined 1876, she coming from Salem, S. C.; he was elected deacon but declined; he was Assistant Superintendent of the Sunday School; they were dismissed to First Church 1881, where later he was an elder; he was an attorney, their home was on Tryon Street at Third.

Young, Mrs. Sarah Virginia (Mrs. R. S.), came from Poplar Tent October 14, 1873, being the first member, her daughters, Sallie and Lou, had signed the petition and came from First Church October 21st the same year. Miss Lou married A. L. Smith, their son Burton H. was a member for many years. Mrs. Young built their home on Tryon Street at Phifer Avenue; it was removed a few years ago to make room for the Sears Roebuck parking space.

Yates, William J., was received April 26, 1874, and his wife, Sallie Springs Yates, came from First Church two years later; he removed his membership to Tryon Street Methodist 1878; their daughter, Clara, enrolled from Raleigh, 1877; she married Jas. H. Ross and they



removed to Shreveport, La. 1885; their daughter, Mamie, later Mrs. E. L. Keesler, joined 1882 and has been a member since that time, 69 years. The Keesler children, Edward Y., Mary, Mrs. Harry L. Dalton, and Sara, Mrs. K. M. Waters, became members; Mr. Dalton was a deacon for several years until his family's recent removal to Philadelphia; Mrs. Waters has been a member for many years, and her daughter, Mary Waters, is a fourth generation member of the Yates family. Another daughter of the Yates, Bettie, joined Second Church 1882; she married H. N. Pharr and their son, Neal Y., has been a deacon for many years, and his son, Henry Neal, is another fourth generation member; another Yates daughter, Addie, joined 1887; she died 1899; another daughter, Sallie, and her husband, Dr. I. W. Faison, came from Mt. Olive 1892; he was a deacon, then elder from 1896 until his death 1926. The Faison children, Lizzie and Yates W. were members for many years; a son, David S. Yates, joined 1898. William J. Yates was editor and proprietor of The Charlotte Democrat; the Yates home place was on Tryon Street at Morehead.

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The last worship service in the building on North Tryon Street, which had been the home of Second Church and then of the Second Church Branch of Covenant Presbyterian since 1892, was held on Sunday morning, June 3, 1951. The subject of Dr. Hall's sermon was "Things to Remember".







